

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
KAKUHIHEWA BUILDING
601 KAMOKILA BLVD, STE 555

**Testimony of
SUZANNE B. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
JUDICIARY**

**Thursday, March 22, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In Consideration of
SENATE CONCURENT RESOLUTION 99/SENATE RESOLUTION 58
URGING THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO
EXERCISE ITS POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN
NAALEHU THEATER TO PRESERVE THE THEATER'S HISTORIC
LEGACY**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 99/Senate Resolution 58 urge the County Council of the County of Hawaii to exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire the Naalehu Theater to preserve the Theater's historic legacy. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Naalehu Theater was constructed in 1925 by the Hutchinson Sugar Company and hosted theatrical performances, live events and community events, and was later converted to a movie theater. It served the plantation community and military personnel stationed in the vicinity.

In 2005, the Naalehu Theater was nominated for listing in the Hawaii register of historic places and the National Register of Historic Places. The owner, the 300 Company, objected to listing. It is a matter of long practice that the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board does not list places in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places over the owner's objections. The federal regulations governing the National Register of Historic Places prohibit listing when the owner's objects. The decision not to list the Naalehu Theater was a procedural one and does not reflect a determination that the Theater is not historic. It is the opinion of the Department's State Historic Preservation Division staff that the Theater is clearly historic, satisfies the technical criteria for inclusion in both the Hawaii and National Registers of Historic Places, and would be listed if the property owner removed its objection.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

SCR-99

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 1:19:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: